

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 04008 220220Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00
INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 SP-02 /044 W
-----220224Z 032355 /75

P R 180405Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7300
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
SECDEF
JCS
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4008

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR EO TAGS AND SUBJECT

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINTGN PINS, RP, LY
SUBJECT: MINDANAO NEGOTIATIONS

1. I HAD DINNER MARCH 17 WITH PHIL AMBASSADOR TO U.S.
EDUARDO ROMUALDEZ, WHO HAS BEEN IN MANILA FOR MEETING
OF NORTH AMERICAN MISSION CHIEFS, AND WHO WILL RETURN TO
WASHINGTON MARCH 23.

2. ROMUALDEZ, WHO HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS EARLIER
IN THE DAY, WAS MOST GLOOMY ABOUT THE CURRENT PHILIPPINE
NEGOTIATIONS IN LIBYA. HE CHARACTERIZED QADHAFI AS
"SLIPPERY" AND INTIMATED THAT HIS NIECE, IMELDA MARCOS,
HAD BITTEN OFF MORE THAN SHE COULD CHEW IN THESE
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NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID MARCOS HAD "WITHDRAWN" ENRILE,
MENDOZA, AND MILITARY OFFICERS FROM TRIPOLI, AND INSTRUCTED
THEM TO WAIT IN ROME. (WE HAVE OTHER REPORTS WHICH SEEM
TO INDICATE THAT FRICTION BETWEEN IMELDA AND ENRILE HAD
PRECIPITATED "WITHDRAWAL.")

3. ROMUALDEZ WENT ON TO LINK TRIPOLI NEGOTIATIONS WITH

U.S.-PHIL NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY BASES. HE SAID THAT MARCOS PROBABLY COULD NOT RPT NOT RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. WHILE HE WAS STILL ENGAGED IN DEALING WITH QADHAFI. HE FELT QADHAFI COULD AND WOULD "DISTORT" ANY SUCH TALKS TO MAKE THE BARGAINING ON MUSLIM MATTERS MORE DIFFICULT.

4. FROM THIS STATEMENT, ROMUALDEZ JUMPED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE RESUMPTION OF U.S.-PHIL MILITARY BASE TALKS WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL "AT LEAST JUNE." HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS REVIEWING ALL THESE ISSUES AND WOULD BE READY "ABOUT NOW" TO RESUME, BUT ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WERE IN NO RPT NO GREAT HURRY. I SAID THAT WAS ALSO MY IMPRESSION.

5. ROMUALDEZ WILL HAVE SECOND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS, PROBABLY MONDAY MARCH 21 (MANILA TIME) AND HAS ARRANGED TO CALL ON ME EITHER THAT AFTERNOON OR MARCH 22 PRIOR HIS RETURN TO U.S. IF THERE IS ANYTHING DEPARTMENT WISHES ME TO CONVEY THROUGH HIM WHILE HE IS STILL IN MANILA, PLEASE INSTRUCT PRIOR MARCH 21.

SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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